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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

DATE: November 14, 1952

SUBJECT: North Africa

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Lequerica, Spanish Embassy
Mr. Bruce, U
Mr. McBride, WE

COPIES TO:

EUR	American Embassy, Madrid
WE	American Embassy, Paris
NEA	American Legation, Tangier
AF	Consulate General, Casablanca

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Ambassador Lequerica called at his request to discuss the North African question. He explained that Spain was a shareholder in Morocco and that the attitude of the US in UN consideration of the Moroccan problem indirectly affected Spain and his Government was of course desirous of knowing our position.

I explained our position on the North African items in the UN along the following lines:

1. Our legal experts unanimously felt that the UN was competent to take up this question, for one reason because it involved two separate states.

2. The US was opposed to the "Balkanization" of North Africa and wished to avoid any disorders there.

3. As far as the UN consideration of the North African items was concerned, we were opposed to the presence of Tunisian and Moroccan representatives in Committee I.

4. The most important point was that we felt that bilateral negotiations between France on the one hand and the Tunisians and Moroccans on the other represented the only practicable avenue to a solution to this question.

5. We would favor in the UN only a mild resolution expressing the hope that the two parties would resume negotiations.

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